

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2-19, 21, 24, 26-28, 30 and 32-43 remain in the case. Claims 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43 are amended. Claims 1, 20, 22, 23, 25, 29, 31 and 44 are cancelled.

Claims 36, 38, 41, 42, and 43 have been amended for stylistic reasons. In particular, all instances of phrases such as --the steps of--, and -- the step of-- have been deleted. Applicant wishes to note for the record that the amendments are not intended to be narrowing, nor are the amendments being made for a reason related substantially to patentability. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added in the amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowability of claims 2-19, 21, 24, 26-28, 30, 32-43.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant has submitted, under separate cover dated October 26, 2004, an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

Claim Objections

Claim 32 has been amended to correct the dependency as requested by the examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 25, 29, 31 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Epperson et al., U.S. Patent # 6,701,138 B2.

Claims 1, 25, 29, 31 and 44 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 20, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epperson et al., U.S. Patent # 6,701,138 B2 in view of Choumei et al., U.S. Patent # 6,236,266 B1.

Claims 20, 23 have been cancelled.

Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No: 50-1142.

Respectfully submitted,



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